



SOCIETY and PERSONAL ACTIVITIES of WOMEN



American Women Smarter, But English Women More Individual, Is Conclusion

The proper length for skirts "depends on the leg." Whether a woman should wear sleeveless gowns or not "depends on the arm."

Clothing for New York women is "extremely conventional and rather monotonous in style."

American women have "beautifully shod" feet, "well-tended" hands, are "intelligently" "rich."

—and "extremely generous."

The foregoing are a few epigrams from the pen of Mrs. John Fortesque, of London, wife of the king's librarian, who returned to England recently from a trip to the United States. Mrs. Fortesque is widely known in Europe as "Clara," a fashionable dress designer. She has written her impressions of American women and their clothes in the appended article for International News Service.

Mrs. Fortesque's husband recently was the center of considerable discussion when he was barred from speaking at the naval academy in Annapolis because of passages appearing in a book written by him a number of years ago. The excerpts, widely quoted in the press, were declared to cast aspersions on American national integrity.

BY CENTRA.

(The Hon. Mrs. John Fortesque.)

LONDON, Dec. 29.—My American visit has been quite the most interesting experience of my life and one that I hope I may often repeat. But it was all too short. There was so much that I wanted to see and do, and the greater part of my time had to be spent in necessarily working at the Plaza hotel. Not that I could have worked in a more delightful place nor among kinder friends than that hotel staff, but the intricate business connected with the running of dress shows naturally swallowed up most of my leisure time.

Certainly I had every opportunity of studying the American woman and from matron to maid I found her universally charming. As there are no bounds to American hospitality, so there appears to be no limit to the energy and resources of American women. They can be wonderful friends, as I proved every day of my visit. My two hostesses submitted with smiling faces to every form of inconvenience caused by sheltering a working dressmaker under their respective roofs. The telephone never ceased from troubling, and they were literally never at rest. Business men, press interviewers, mannequins, etc., came to see me at all hours of the day and night and were received with kind cordiality by the mistress of the house. I was given every facility to see anyone I chose, and in all my ways and works I received the encouragement and practical help of these patient and indefatigable friends.

"Receptive" and "Eager."

The characteristics that struck me most were the receptiveness, the adaptability and the eager intelligence of the American women. They are not afraid of new ideas and seem always hungry to assimilate more, and they have very decided views of their own. They are keen conversationalists and love the collision of minds. They are progressive and do not condemn a theory because it is new, but immediately begin to analyze it and put it to the test. They keep open, alert minds and seem always ready to be convinced, if their shrewd common sense so directs them. They are not half so slow and cautious as we British.

Apparently I am the first prophet of individualism in dress to cross the Atlantic. When I was asked what the length of the skirt should be I merely replied, "Depends upon the leg," and to the question "Should gowns be sleeveless or not?" I answered, "Depends upon the arm." Instead of instantly losing interest in me because I refused blindly to follow the dictates of fashion and insist upon designing for the individual and creating clothes to suit each type of woman, your press instantly preached my doctrine, and your women were only too ready to accept my views—and my gowns—with eager interest. I should have perfectly understood it if America had "turned me down" as a crank, for I knew how difficult it is to "disregard the opinion of the Joneses." But my gowns and my views met with sympathy and appreciation wherever I went. This surprised me all the more, for after attending various functions and seeing the models in your leading stores I realized that, though very gorgeous and lovely, dress for women in New York is, on the whole, very conventional and rather monotonous in style. Everywhere I saw straight, sleeveless gowns with very little line or drape about them—and drapery can be such a help, especially when one has passed the glorious debutante stage, when nearly all things are possible.

Delicious Debutantes.

And how delicious are your debutantes! I had been led to expect that they would be of rather athletic build and was amazed when my dressing-room at the Plaza was invaded by a bevy of dainty sylphs with bobbed heads, who came to try on my various models. And I can truthfully say that I never enjoyed seeing my models more than when they were worn by the beautiful youth of America.

I think that American women are smarter by day than we, English women. From the society woman to the stenographer in New York I found them always well finished. Their hair and hands are so well tended, their feet beautifully shod—they are indescribably chic. Of course they have the advantage of a more settled climate and are less likely to have a toilette ruined by rain and mud than we in England. Also, when one knows that of the 12,000,000 motor cars in the world 10,000,000 are in America, one realizes that nearly every woman of any means must possess a car. And one can be far more elaborate if one is driven everywhere.

But I think that I can justly claim that, though American women are extraordinarily smart at night, the English women are more individual in their dress and therefore an evening function in London is a more picturesque affair than one in New York, though maybe less gorgeous. I have heard American women who have attended our courts and drawing-rooms admit this in the most generous way.

"Yes—generous is the word that best describes your women of America. They are generous of the

FRIENDSHIP

Men's Fails; But Women's Lasts in Slaying Case

BY ALEXANDER HERMAN.

(NEA Service Staff Writer.)

NEW YORK, Dec. 30.—In the balance of a conflict between two friendships—one of women, inspired of mother love; the other of men, sordid by greed—hang two men's lives.

They are those of Abraham Becker, whose wife's mutilated body was found in a boiler pit seven months after she disappeared, and his friend, Reuben Norkin, on whose premises the body was buried.

These men now stand in the shadow of the death house, put there by Mrs. Rebecca Baldwin, friend of the dead woman.

Risks Her Life.

A busy housewife, mother of three, Mrs. Baldwin turned sleuth, risked

give yourself over to them? How do you know what they are trying to do with you?

"Of course, I don't think you hear any voices at all. I think your nerves are out of order, and they act just like a telephone wire, or an electric bell wire, that is out of order. Haven't you ever heard a bell that buzzed and buzzed when there was no one ringing it? Well, that is what your nerves are doing. They are buzzing and making you hear things, when there is nothing to hear."

"Now Mary, you go home and eat good food and read agreeable books, and get agreeable people around you—same, well-balanced, sensible people, and Mary—you keep your feet on the ground!"

I do hope Mary will take the good doctor's advice, and I am very thankful to him for giving it to her as kindly as he did.

Dear Mary, she is too fine, and too high-minded, and too good, in every way to be made the plaything of a set of diseased nerves!

CORSAJES.

Elaborate corsage bouquets are seen in the shops and offer an easy way to refurbish a gown that is on plain, good lines. A rose of emerald-green velvet, the petals of which are outlined with brown fur, is one of the most unique offerings.

AT THE OPERA.

One of the most gorgeous gowns yet seen at the opera was of silver brocade, slightly shot with black, with a single shoulder drape, and a one-sided drape over the skirt. With it was worn Russian head-dress of diamonds, and a fan of canary-colored ostrich.

NEW RIBBONS.

Fulle, plain moire or satin-backed moire ribbons are being used extensively on the new spring hats. The effect of glistening metal is produced by a very high lacquer finish.

Wide cape sleeves are noticed on many of the spring frocks. These often a tiny cuff or band which holds the sleeve in place about the wrist.



MRS. REBECCA BALDWIN, WHOSE FRIENDSHIP FOR MRS. BECKER LED TO THE UNCOVERING OF THE BOILER PIT MURDER. BELOW: ABRAHAM BECKER (LEFT), HUSBAND OF THE SLAIN WOMAN, AND REUBEN NORKIN, HIS FRIEND.

her life and uncovered the alleged crime after police failed.

In an exclusive interview with NEA Service this unheralded heroine today said:

"Being a mother I could not believe Mrs. Becker had left her four children and run away as her husband said."

"I was in a hospital then and could do little except think. I knew the woman well. I knew of her troubles and disillusionments."

"I knew other women had crossed her path. The husband had left her for a time."

"I got busy when I left the hospital. One afternoon I got to chatting with a man who had owned a candy store near Becker's home. He told me Becker had been in his shop at seven o'clock on the morning of his wife's disappearance and had looked about it. To the authorities Becker had said he discovered the disappearance when he came home for lunch."

Deives Deeper.

"I dug deeper. I found Becker had gone back to the woman who had made his wife unhappy."

"I found Becker had suffered a nervous collapse two days after the disappearance. I went to the authorities, but they said they wanted the body before they could bring indictments."

"I persisted. Finally the police grilled Becker. He implicated Norkin, who showed the detectives where the body was buried."

The women's friendship lasted but—

When Norkin was arrested, he implicated his part in the murder was that of a disinterested service for Becker. But before they came to trial the men turned on each other, each accusing the other of the crime.

LOCAL EVENTS IN MUSIC

(Continued from Page Fifteen)

that it behooves any folk who expect to hear the concert to secure reservations at once.

Few musicians have the varied intellectual interests of Fritz Kreisler, that supreme violinist, who is touring America this season under the direction of C. J. Foley of Boston. He has studied medicine and law; is a painter of no mean ability, and gave a year of his life to the study of painting in Paris. He is a most accomplished linguist, speaking accentless and idiomatic French, Italian, English and Russian, in addition to his native Austrian, and writes also in these languages with absolute surety.

Musically he is, of course, one of the greatest violinists of our time, but he is only less great as a pianist, and Harold Bauer has said that if Kreisler would devote a year to the piano, he would rank among the foremost pianists of the world. In composition Kreisler has established a unique reputation. His works appear on the programs of nearly every concert of music for the violin. He has written music for string quartet, and has also done a vast amount of arranging of music for his instrument and may be regarded as the discoverer of that wonderful literature for the violin that the 17th and

18th century Italian composers wrote in such quantities. He is now devoting his time to the composition of serious music.

Altogether Kreisler is an artist of most unusual accomplishments, being one of those fortunate men to whom nature seems to have given everything.

Since the transfer of Harry Geiss and his orchestra from the LaSalle to the Blackstone theater, that organization has been able to feature some of the best standard compositions for the musical public.

Symphony concerts are held but a few weeks during the year and in the absence of other organizations who feature the heavier orchestral numbers, the Blackstone orchestra, under the leadership of Geiss has been South Bend's only opportunity to hear such music.

Geiss has endeavored to give the public a variety of the most difficult and lighter classics, not only in his picture accompaniments but when featuring the orchestra, and he has been largely instrumental in keeping the musical interests of the city alive during the past year, intermixing solos with ensemble numbers. He has made his orchestra one of the city's best musical attractions and the only one which is continually available.

Beginning today the Blackstone orchestra will feature Suppe's over-

ture "Beautiful Galathea" and the latter half of the week will play a special arrangement of a popular number yet to be selected.

Best records of the week as announced by the various dealers are: Victor—"Away Down East in Maine" by Miss Patricia, and the Virginians, "Childhood" as sung by Billy Murray; "Nocturne" by Olga Samaroff, and "The Maiden's Wish," as played by Paderewski.

Columbia—"Fate" by Ted Lewis and his band, "All Muddled Up" by Paul Specht and his orchestra, "My Buddy" as a vocal solo by Edwin Dale, and "Simple Confession" by the De Lutes Trio.

O.K.—"Hum" by Markel's orchestra, "I Wish I Could Shimmy Like My Sister Kate" by the O.K. Syncopators, "My Buddy" by Billy Jones, and "For The Sake Of Old Lang Syne" by Billy Jones and Ernest Hare.

Grammick—"Sweetheart Lane" by Carl Fenton's orchestra, "Some of These Days" by Benny Krueger's orchestra, "Seminole Overture" by Vessella's band, and "Mignon" by Florence Easton.

Besides the regulation satin and lace-trimmed nuptial to which we have become accustomed, this season we find elaborate ones of broadened metal cloth, and of Chinese and oriental embroidery.

1873



1923

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Happy New Year

January Clearance Sales
Begin Tuesday Morning.
Cost Price Not Considered

January days mean days of happy purchases, for during these January days we offer a host of specially priced items carefully selected to make this the best bargain period of the entire season.

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When You Want Developing, Printing, Coloring or Enlarging Films---

resolve that you will either bring your films to Ault's or, if you live outside of South Bend you can mail them to us and we will return them postpaid. You will be pleased with the wonderful results you receive when you use the AULT METHOD. Our hundreds of customers will vouch that this method is the best. Try it the next time you "SHOOT" some pictures.

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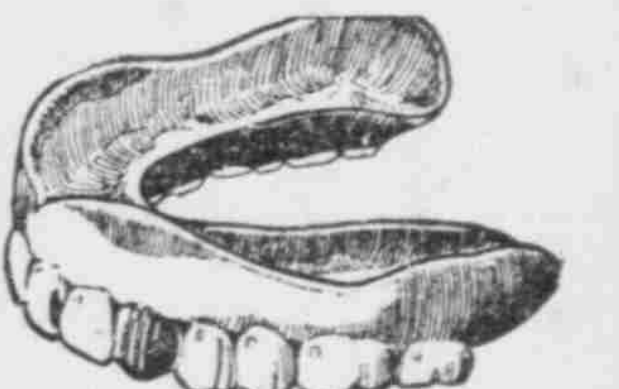
RESOLVED:--

That I shall have my teeth examined with a high degree of regularity, as this action will, in the end, save me no little pain and perhaps illness; that in my program of economy I shall list the name of Dr. J. T. Holmes, as I can have my teeth kept in the best of condition through Holmes' Dental Service and realize a saving of no less than 50 percent; that if I carry out this resolution religiously, I shall enjoy better health, additional friends and greater prosperity.



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